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BOOK REVIEWS

TEXT BOOK OF MATERIA MEDICA FOR NURSES. Compiled by Lavinia L. Dock, R.N. Revised in accordance with the ninth decennial revision of the U. S. Pharmacopœia. Seventh edition. 315 pages. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. Price, \$1.75.

This is the seventh and best edition of the book which has given so many nurses their first A B C's of the subject. The contents of the text, which is indexed, includes well chosen discussions of other related topics, such as the metric system, new and interesting changes in the last revision of the United States Pharmacopœia, and Electro-Therapeutics and Radiology.

One of the best features of the last edition is the organization of the subject matter according to the anatomical systems of the body, an arrangement which is helpful to the student nurse in correlating *Materia Medica* with other sciences.

On the other hand, the following are points which one might wish to take into consideration when selecting it for a text; first, there is no illustrative material; second, information regarding pathological conditions for which drugs are prescribed is reduced to a minimum; and, third, the text is rather elementary for the use of our better prepared students. Nevertheless, in spite of a few errors, the book contains a wealth of material, is well organized and it will meet better than ever the needs of many schools.

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PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND HYGIENE. By Milton J. Rosenau. 1567 pages. D. Appleton and Company, New York. Price, \$10.

This large and valuable treatise is well known to our nurse instructors and should be in every school of nursing reference library. The new edition, the fourth, includes much new material of special interest and value to all public health nurses and, of course, that means all nurses who are working for community health. The edition of 1917 was called by Dr. Rosenau a special or military edition, prepared to meet the needs of an emergency. This last edition might very well be called a peace time contribution to the cause of public health.

The sections on Communicable Disease, Immunity, Food, Air, Water, Personal Hygiene, Disinfection and the Laboratory Course, will probably be of greatest value in the preliminary courses of our nursing schools; while those dealing with Public Health measures and methods, Mental Hygiene, Vital Statistics, Sewage and Refuse

Disposal, Industrial Hygiene and Diseases of Occupation, and School Sanitation will give the background necessary for efficient work in the field of Public Health.

In the section dealing with Public Health measures and methods, Dr. Rosenau emphasizes man's part in the spread of communicable disease. He says: "Since most infections are spread rather directly from man to man, the forces of sociology must be brought in to aid those of preventive medicine. We can control our environment to a very great extent, but the control of man himself requires the consent of the governed. Therefore, it is easier to stamp out yellow fever than to control typhoid fever; easier to suppress malaria than syphilis; rabies than influenza; trichinosis than measles. Man rebels against one of the best of all specifics,—vaccination against smallpox. The fact that man is the chief source and reservoir of most of his own infections adds greatly to the scope and difficulties of public health work and often makes the prevention of disease dependent upon social and economic changes. In this sense preventive medicine is a very important factor in sociology."

This is the new public health, and it will be readily seen that such teaching is what we need for our nurse students. In this recognition of man as the source of disease, we have the reason for the rapid expansion of public health nursing, for if we are to control tuberculosis, eradicate typhoid, diphtheria, smallpox, and all other diseases, for which we have recognized specifics, it must be done by converting individuals to the gospel of public health, and so far, no agent has been so successful in this work as "that person called the nurse."

Dr. Rosenau gives a page, only, to Public Health Nursing, and describes the duties of the public health nurse as being "vague and varied." We agree that they are varied, but they seem, on the whole, to be pretty definite. The public health nurse (and we include all nurses) is the intermediary agent between man and man, who must teach the laws of health, break down old prejudices concerning the spread of disease, and help form a social conscience which shall eradicate preventable disease and raise the standard of health and efficiency for all people.

Dr. Rosenau's book is highly recommended for use in the libraries of nursing schools and public health nursing organizations, as well as for the "five foot shelf" of the individual nurse. We will guarantee that "fifteen minutes a day" with Rosenau will make any one of us more intelligent and efficient in the cause of nursing and health.

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